

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/917,200

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

Applicant(s)

STERN ET AL.

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to a telephone interview with Mary Lou Wakimura (Reg. No. 31,804) on 11/9/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6-11 and 13-19 (renumbered as 1-17).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 8/4/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JEAN M. CORRIELLUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. The applicants amended claims 1, 9, and 15 in the amendment received on 9/1/05.

The pending claims are 1-4, 6-11, and 13-19.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mary Lou Wakimura (Reg. No. 31,804) on 11/9/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

In specification, page 3, lines 11-15, please delete the followings:

"For example:

<http://www.corex.com/bios.html>

<http://www.cardscan.com/index.html>

<http://fn.cnn.com/archives/may99/pr37.html>

<ftp://shiva.lin.com/soft/words.zip>".

In specification, page 3, lines 19-23, please delete the followings:

"For example, the followings are legal variations of the previous example

URLs:

www.corex.com/bios.html

www.cardscan.com

fn.cnn.com/archives/may99/pr37.html

<ftp://shiva.lin.com/soft/words.zip>".

Rewrite claim 1 as follows:

"1. A method of providing a data store of people information, comprising the steps of:

using automated means, extracting from a global computer network unstructured information about individual people, and storing the extracted information in a database, the database including for each person a respective record holding at least name of a person and name of a respective current employer; and

enabling people named in the database to access respective records, said enabling access being in a manner that enables each respective person to edit data in each respective person's record of the database but maintains integrity of the automatically extracted information such that both user-edited data and automatically extracted information reside simultaneously in the database, the user-edited data being

maintained and continually updated by a person named in the database and automatically extracted information being maintained by the automated means and not the person such that integrity of the automatically extracted and stored information is maintained, the automated means replacing old extracted data but not user-edited data with newly extracted data, portions of the user-edited data being same information but a different version of the automatically extracted information.”;

In claim 2, line 4, please delete “updating the data”, and insert - - updating data - -;

In claim 3, line 4, please delete “name of the person”, and insert - - name of a person - -;

In claim 4, line 3, please delete “in the record”, and insert - - in a record - -;

In claim 7, line 4, please delete “name of the organization”, and insert - - name of an organization - -;

Rewrite claim 9 as follows:

“9. A method for e-mail communication comprising the steps of:

providing a database storing information regarding people, said providing including using crawler means, automatically extracting unstructured information

regarding people and/or organizations from sites on a global computer network and storing the extracted information in the database, such that the database is formed by automated means;

coupling an e-mail clearinghouse system to the database, in a manner that enables each person named in the database to receive e-mail in a respective e-mail box, in a manner free of the database indicating email addresses of people named in the database to email message senders; and

enabling individuals to annotate, including updating, information stored in the database in a manner that maintains integrity of the information as extracted, such that both user-edited data and automatically extracted information reside simultaneously in the database, the user-edited data being maintained by a respective individual and the automatically extracted information being maintained by the automated means and not the respective individual and thus maintaining integrity, the automated means replacing old extracted data but not user-edited data with newly extracted data, portions of the user-edited data being same information but a different version of the automatically extracted information.”;

In claim 10, line 6, please delete “updating the data”, and insert - - updating data - -;

In claim 15, line 12, please delete “people or organization”, and insert - - people or organizations - -;

In claim 17, line 4, please delete "name of the person", and insert - - name of a person - -; and

In claim 19, lines 2-3, please delete "job title of the person", and insert - - job title of a person - -.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-19 are allowed.

Reasons For Indicating Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1, 9, and 15 identify the distinct features, "...using automated means, extracting from a global computer network unstructured information about individual people...enabling people to update information stored in the database in a manner maintains integrity of the information as extracted, such that both user-edited data and automatically extracted information reside simultaneously in the database...replacing old extracted information but not user-edited data stored in the database with newly extracted data" for claims 1 and 9, and "...extracting from a global computer network unstructured information about individual people...monitoring the global computer network for changes in information about desired people or organizations with respect to the extracted information stored in the database...notifying an interested party of the

Art Unit: 2166


detected change...replacing old extracted information but not user-edited data stored in the database with the new information" for claim 15, are not taught or suggested by the prior art made of records. The closest prior art, Stuntebeck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,016) disclosing a universal directory service providing communication addresses of individuals associated with numerous different institutions, fails to suggest the claimed limitations as mentioned above in combination with other claimed elements. The above features in conjunction with all other limitations of the dependent and independent claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-19 are hereby allowed.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 571-272-4036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M~F).

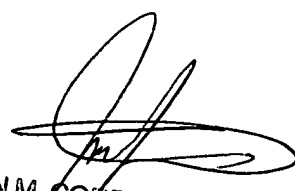
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2166

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joon Hwang 
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

11/9/05


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER